

Appl. No. 10/037,048

Attorney Docket No. 10541-887

## II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this amendment, claims 2-8, 10, 12 and 13 remain pending.

### *Claim Amendments*

Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which is regarded as the invention. Specifically, claim 2 specifies a forming means having a shape that varies in width and height. In addition, claim 2 clarifies that the inflation means is partially inflated, that the tubular structure is stretched over the inflation means and that resin is injected before full inflation of the forming means. Regarding claim 7, it now specifies the leaf spring shape. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced into the application.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)*

Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,540,877, to Repetto et al. ("Repetto"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As noted by the Examiner, Repetto discloses a method of making a fiber reinforced resin transfer molded frame for a game racquet. The frame is formed by inserting a dry filament tube, with an inflatable bladder inside, into a mold. *Repetto*, col. 4, lines 34-35. The bladder has a tubular shape, and the mold has the shape of a racquet frame with a hoop shaped head portion. *Id.* at col. 3, lines

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40-41 and col. 5, lines 64-65. After the bladder is inflated, a polymer resin is injected into the mold cavity and pressure is applied by the injected resin. *See id.* at col. 6, lines 23-40.

In contrast, claim 2 of the present invention recites a forming means and a mold both having a transverse leaf spring shape with a tapered width over a portion of its length and pivot portions of increased height. In addition, claim 2 recites that the inflation means is partially inflated, that the pre-braided structure is stretched over the inflation means and that the resin is injected before full inflation of the forming means. Therefore, it is submitted that Repetto fails to disclose these steps as noted above. The rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

Referring to independent claim 7, it similarly recites an inflatable forming means having a shape corresponding to a leaf spring and means for stretching a pre-braided structure over the inflation means. Repetto on the other hand, discloses neither of these features. From this it is submitted that Repetto fails to disclose the claimed invention and that the rejection based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

Claims 3-6, 8, 10 and 12-13 are all dependent upon claims 2 or 7 and are allowable at least based on the arguments presented above. The rejections based thereon should accordingly be withdrawn.

*Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)*

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Repetto et al. ("Repetto"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.



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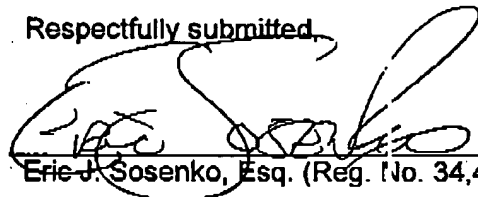
The comments presented above regarding claim 2, from which claim 5 depends, are equally applicable to the present rejection in that Repetto fails to disclose every element claimed in the present invention. The rejection under § 103(a) should accordingly be withdrawn.

*Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

February 1, 2006  
Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
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